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ABSTRACT

Designed to provide an alternative to the book report, this booklet presents ideas for students to use in responding to books they have read. These ideas may help to get students to react to their reading, to stretch their minds, to learn to think as independent human beings, and to use their imaginations in experiencing literature. The 152 ideas have been printed on "reaction cards," which may be cut apart, attached to index cards, and stored in a recipe box. They may also be reproduced for individual distribution. The 15 categories of reaction cards are as follows: (1) creative writing, (2) career education, (3) drama, (4) comparisons, (5) the author, (6) art work, (7) library projects, (8) values clarification, (9) the setting, (10) vocabulary, (11) literary qualities, (12) the future, (13) the past, (14) characters, and (15) fun. (Six references are included.) (AEW)

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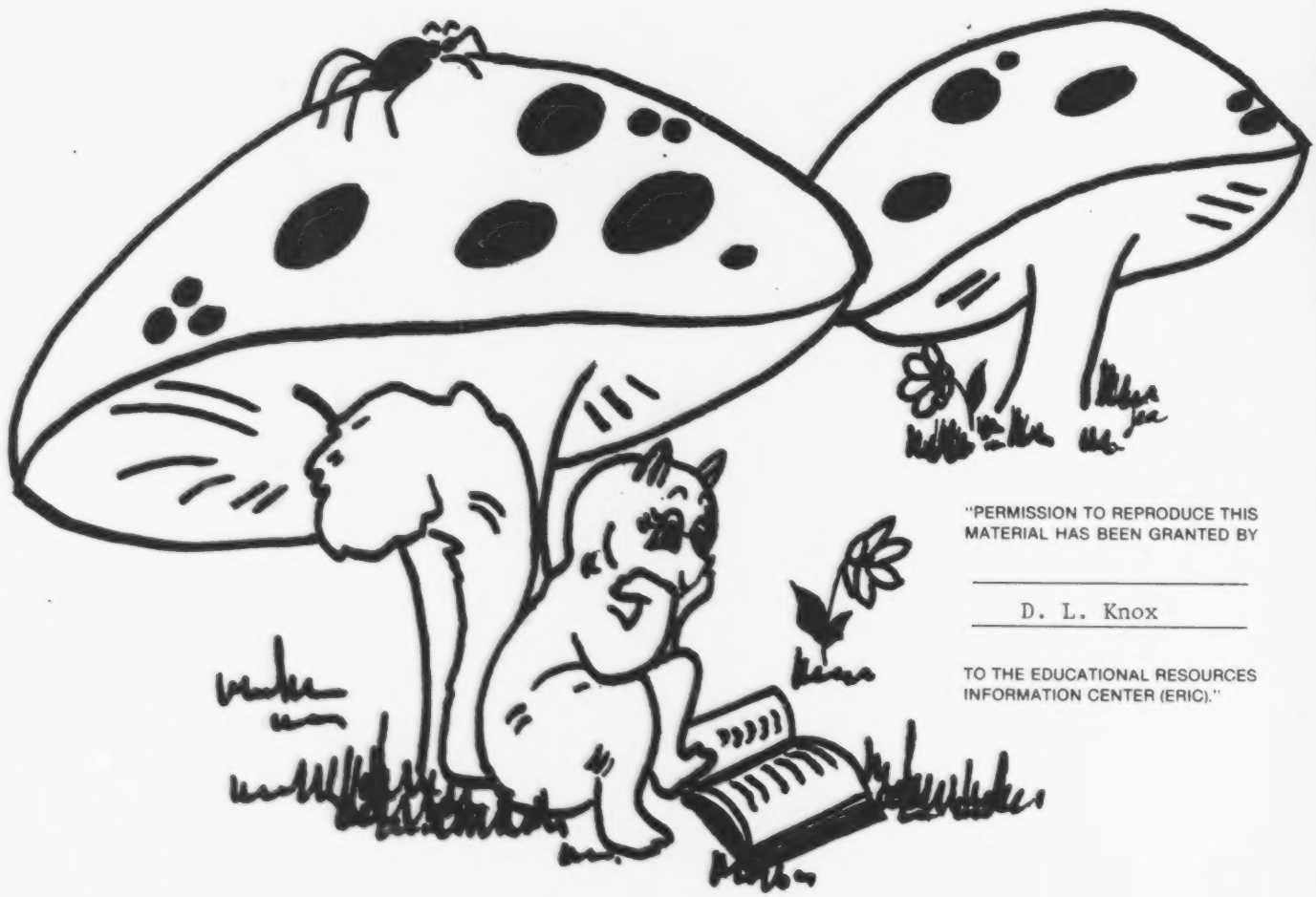
# NOVEL REACTIONS



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- 1980 -

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## - INTRODUCTION -

*Novel Reactions* is an attempt to provide an alternative method of book reporting by providing ideas for interesting and "novel" reactions for students on the books they have encountered. These ideas may help to get students to react to their reading, to stretch their minds, to learn to think as independent human beings, and to use their imaginations in experiencing literature.

These 152 ideas have been typed on "reaction cards" that may be cut apart, attached to index cards, and put into a recipe box for easy handling by students, or may be reproduced for individual distribution. Whatever the method of use, these ideas will hopefully serve as initiative for imaginative reactions.

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| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write about the most humorous, exciting or saddest incident and explain why you felt that way. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a letter to the author objecting to something and suggesting a variation. |
| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a letter to the author inviting him/her to speak to the class about a topic and explain why you feel he/she is appropriate. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write to a character in the book. |
| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a letter from the author to a critic of the book. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a letter from a character in the book to another character in the same book or to someone in the real world. |
| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a newspaper headline and lead paragraph for key events in the book. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a new title for the book with an explanation. |

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| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write any kind of poem about your book. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a letter to a friend describing this book you are going to send him/her. |
| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a different ending for your book. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Keep a journal as you read your book: your reactions, thoughts, feelings. |
| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a five-line "easy" poem about your book: a noun, then two adjectives, then three verbs, then a thought about the noun, and finally a synonym for the noun. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write two articles for a newspaper published at the time of or in the country of your book. |
| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write an obituary, eulogy, or epitaph for one of the characters in your book. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a diary for your favorite character. |

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| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Transfer a major character into an animal that fits his/her personality. Write him/her a letter telling why you selected that animal. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write your own short story from a book title; then read the book and compare your story to the original. |
| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a radio script on a biography or an auto-biography you have read. Include voices of family, friends, etc., who tell how they knew the person. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a biographical sketch about a person in a biography or autobiography. Present to class and have students guess who it is. |
| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Make recommendations about a book on a book marker to be kept in the book you have read. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write a diary of a character's experiences reflecting your personal reactions to them. |
| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Write an essay explaining why you would or would not like to live in the world portrayed in your book. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Develop your own study sheet for other readers to use. Include discussion questions, essay topics, and/or activities to go along with reading. |

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| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Compile an anthology of poems and songs that deal with problems, hopes, and themes similar to those in the book. | CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>Prepare an article for a magazine called *The Supernatural or Great Mysteries*. Describe some mysterious or unexplainable happening(s) in the book. |
| CREATIVE WRITING<br><br>If you have read a detective mystery, write a story in which you create a near-perfect crime and describe how the detective would "crack" the case. | CAREER EDUCATION<br><br>From the yellow pages of a phone book, pick out businesses you think the main character would be interested in and explain why. |
| CAREER EDUCATION<br><br>Make a job application for the main character and fill it in. | CAREER EDUCATION<br><br>What did you learn about the vocation of the leading adult character? |
| CAREER EDUCATION<br><br>Find newspaper want ads of interest to a character and explain why. | CAREER EDUCATION<br><br>Write a business letter to the publisher and order copies of your book; explain why. |

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| DRAMA<br><br>Dramatize your favorite incident. | DRAMA<br><br>As a famous movie star you have been asked to play a character; explain your answer. |
| DRAMA<br><br>Write a TV commercial for your book. | DRAMA<br><br>Make a TV script for one scene of your book. |
| DRAMA<br><br>Play "What's My Line" with one character: write out questions to portray him/her. | DRAMA<br><br>As a movie producer, explain why you will or will not make your book into a movie. |
| DRAMA<br><br>Explain how your book could be made into a movie: clothes, setting, cars, props, etc. | DRAMA<br><br>Assume the role of an "on the scene" reporter. Give an on-the-spot account of an event from the book as if you were reporting it for a T.V. audience. |

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| DRAMA<br><br>Enact a conversation between two characters from different books by the same author. | DRAMA<br><br>Conduct a trial of a character for his/her actions. |
| DRAMA<br><br>Impersonate a character by dress, speech and actions. | DRAMA<br><br>Assume the role of a director and plan the staging of a drama, creating sets, make-up directions, and costume design. |
| COMPARISONS<br><br>Compare your book with another book you've read. | COMPARISONS<br><br>Describe an experience you've had that was like the experience of a character. |
| COMPARISONS<br><br>Compare your book with a movie or T.V. show of the same kind. | COMPARISONS<br><br>Compare two books dealing with the same subject. |

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| THE AUTHOR<br><br>Pretend you're the author and tell what else you've written. | THE AUTHOR<br><br>Pretend you're the author and tell about your life and how this book fits into it. |
| THE AUTHOR<br><br>Students role play the author defending his/her book before critics. | THE AUTHOR<br><br>Write to the author and explain your reaction to her/his book. |
| THE AUTHOR<br><br>Write to the author and explain why her/his book appeals to your age group. | THE AUTHOR<br><br>Make up five interview questions (with answers) for the author. |
| THE AUTHOR<br><br>Pretend you're the author and explain why you chose the title of your book. | THE AUTHOR<br><br>Pretend you're the author and describe the part that was most fun to write. |

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| ART WORK<br><br>Produce an animated film of the story. (Draw scenes from the book on flip cards or a roll of paper.) | ART WORK<br><br>Draw a series of illustrations depicting the story. |
| ART WORK<br><br>Make a mobile of characters, settings or events important to the plot. | ART WORK<br><br>Design puppet figures of one or more of the characters in the book. |
| ART WORK<br><br>Design a needlework, decoupage, or mosaic design related to characters, setting, theme or plot. | ART WORK<br><br>Draw caricatures of the characters. |
| ART WORK<br><br>Design a display for the library or school library encouraging others to read the book. | ART WORK<br><br>Produce a photographic essay or display related to the book. |

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| ART WORK<br><br>Create a poster for your book. | ART WORK<br><br>Write an ad for your book. |
| ART WORK<br><br>Make a book mark for your book. | ART WORK<br><br>Collect pictures that go with your book and describe each. |
| ART WORK<br><br>Write out your title decoratively and for each letter write a phrase about the book. | ART WORK<br><br>Design a book jacket for the book you have read. |
| ART WORK<br><br>Deliver a sales talk for your book. | ART WORK<br><br>Make a tape about your book. |

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| ART WORK<br><br>Design a book cover for your book. | ART WORK<br><br>Draw a comic strip of your book. |
| ART WORK<br><br>Draw a portrait of your favorite character and explain something about it. | ART WORK<br><br>Make any kind of illustration for your book (drawing, chart, graph) and explain it. |
| ART WORK<br><br>Cut words or pictures from the newspaper to make a collage or ad for your book. | ART WORK<br><br>Make a "WANTED" poster for the main character. |
| ART WORK<br><br>Make a "thumbprint" book about your book (the figures come from thumbs dipped in paint) and write captions for these illustrations. | ART WORK<br><br>Make a bulletin board about your book. |

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| LIBRARY PROJECTS<br><br>Do research on any topic connected with your book. | LIBRARY PROJECTS<br><br>In the *Reader's Guide* find five articles related to your book and tell how they apply. |
| LIBRARY PROJECTS<br><br>Find a quotation applicable to your book and tell how it applies. | LIBRARY PROJECTS<br><br>See if your book is in the library; then write a letter to the librarian either congratulating the choice or asking to order it. |
| LIBRARY PROJECTS<br><br>Find a poem which applies to your book; write it out and explain how it applies. | VALUES CLARIFICATION<br><br>Pretend you are a scientist or a psychiatrist who has been called in to explain the unusual events in the book. Write a scientific or medical report expressing your views. |
| VALUES CLARIFICATION<br><br>Write a dialogue between you and a character in which you discuss opinions on love, advantages/disadvantages of marriage, and hopes for the future. | VALUES CLARIFICATION<br><br>Put yourself in the place of the main character and describe how his/her life would have been different if you would have lived it. |

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| VALUES CLARIFICATION<br><br>How did the book change your way of thinking? | VALUES CLARIFICATION<br><br>Use this as a topic sentence: "This book made me (any verb)." |
| VALUES CLARIFICATION<br><br>Explain what the main character would be least likely to do and why. | VALUES CLARIFICATION<br><br>Did any character change during the book? |
| VALUES CLARIFICATION<br><br>What problems did the main characters have and how did they meet them? | VALUES CLARIFICATION<br><br>If the book has a villain, why was his/her punishment justified? |
| VALUES CLARIFICATION<br><br>As a psychiatrist, analyze the conflicts and problems of a character. | VALUES CLARIFICATION<br><br>Would you like to have a character as a friend? Explain. |

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| THE SETTING<br><br>Make a map of your book. | THE SETTING<br><br>Compare where you live with the neighborhood or town in your book. |
| THE SETTING<br><br>Draw the setting of your book and explain it. | THE SETTING<br><br>How would a scene be different if it had taken place in a region other than represented? |
| VOCABULARY<br><br>Make a small dictionary (at least twenty-five words) for the subject of your book. | VOCABULARY<br><br>List fifteen interesting words from your book and tell why each is interesting. |
| VOCABULARY<br><br>List new words learned from your book: define them and give the sentences in which you found them. | VOCABULARY<br><br>Choose some of the following words and explain how each applies to your book: stupendous, exciting, breathtaking, horrendous, fabulous, etc. |

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| LITERARY QUALITIES<br><br>Why does your book begin as it does? | LITERARY QUALITIES<br><br>Quote passages of good description and good dialogue and explain them. |
| LITERARY QUALITIES<br><br>Find and write down twenty-five similes and metaphors. | LITERARY QUALITIES<br><br>Think about who the narrator is; then write one scene from the point of view of another character and explain the switch. |
| LITERARY QUALITIES<br><br>Prepare an interpretive reading of some outstanding selections from the book. Preface with a commentary on why you chose it, its significance to the plot, etc. | LITERARY QUALITIES<br><br>Present a debate on the validity of some aspects of the book, such as the ending, the author's techniques, etc. |
| THE FUTURE<br><br>Reproduce blueprints for an unusual future vehicle or building described in your book, or develop a drawing or cardboard model of one. | THE FUTURE<br><br>Put yourself into the book and write an article for *Unbelievable* magazine entitled "My Three Days in the Future" or "My Three Days on Another Planet," detailing your experiences in the book's world. |

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| THE FUTURE<br><br>If you were from Mars, how would you react to your book? | THE FUTURE<br><br>Describe what you think happened to the main character after the book ended. |
| THE FUTURE<br><br>Explain why your book should be included in a capsule to be dug up in one hundred years. | THE FUTURE<br><br>Make a horoscope for the main character explaining her/his sign and her/his future. |
| THE PAST<br><br>Tell what you think happened before the story began. | THE PAST<br><br>Imagine that you're an eighteenth century student: how would you react to your book? |
| THE PAST<br><br>If your story took place one hundred years earlier, how would your main character act? | THE PAST<br><br>If your main character is from the past, how would she/he act if the book took place today? |

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| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Assume the role of the main character. Think aloud as this character goes through a critical scene. | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Develop an oral presentation that begins: "I am _____ and I appear in the book _____ written by _____." "_____ (a friend) makes me think of _____ in the novel because _____ ..." |
| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Pretend you are a specific animal to be adopted by a character from the book. Which character would you choose and why? | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Plan a menu for a character based on the knowledge you have gained from the book and give explanations for your choices. |
| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Write a note for your family giving do's and don'ts for them to follow when a character guest arrives for a visit. | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Nominate a character for a high position in a club or political office and give reasons for your choice. |
| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Create a computer dating questionnaire for a character. Include questions about appearance, likes, dislikes, and what he/she is looking for in an ideal mate. | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Imagine that a character from your book visits your school. Write what he/she would tell students about his/her life and views of your school and society. |

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| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Discuss how the main character is like or unlike people you know. | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Pretend you're one character and introduce the other characters to your class. |
| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>As an interior decorator, how would you decorate a character's bedroom and why? | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Invite one character to dinner and write a note of explanation to your mother. |
| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Invite three celebrities to a party for the main character and explain your choice. | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Write a page about a character beginning with the sentence: "I was (any verb) by..." |
| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Make a time line of the events in the life of the main character. | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Write a chronology for one character. |

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| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Make up five interview questions (with answers) for the main character. | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Explain where you think the main character will die. |
| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>For a film of your book, which actress would you choose for the leading female and why? | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>For a film of your book, which actor would you choose for the leading male and why? |
| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Explain what the main character would prefer for Christmas and why. | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Explain where the main character would prefer to vacation and why. |
| THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Explain what the main character would prefer for dinner and why. | THE CHARACTERS<br><br>Explain what the main character would prefer to wear and why. |

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| FUN<br><br>Defend: This book should be read by everyone who hates reading. | FUN<br><br>Defend: This book should never be spoiled by a teacher requiring a book report. |
| FUN<br><br>Free choice: do anything you want in connection with your book. | FUN<br><br>How many reasons can you think of to take your book to an isolated Antartica camp? |
| FUN<br><br>Describe a field trip you would like to take because of your book. | FUN<br><br>Write one page on this: why _____ should not read this book. |
| FUN<br><br>Make a crossword puzzle from your book. | FUN<br><br>Write a song about your book, using the melody of any song you like. |

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